OMRI DAILY DIGEST
No. 79, 21 April 1995

KOZYREV SAYS IT AGAIN. On 20 April, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev repeated his statement that Russia has the right to use its military to defend ethnic Russians living abroad. Kozyrev defended his comments by saying that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has asserted an American right to use military force to defend its interests abroad, international agencies reported. Kozyrev expressed surprise at the strong foreign reaction to his comments. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin told Interfax that Kozyrev's statements do not signal a change in Russian foreign policy and Kozyrev himself said he has been saying similar things over the last five years. Karasin called the Baltic States' reaction "somewhat strange." He stressed that Kozyrev's comments are not related to the minister's Duma election campaign. -- Michael Mihalka, OMRI, Inc.

ESTONIAN PARLIAMENT ELECTS NEW DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. The Estonian parliament on 20 April elected Center Party faction member Arvo Junti as its deputy chairman to replace Edgar Savisaar, who resigned on becoming internal affairs minister, BNS reported. Junti received 58 votes while his opponent National Independence Party chairman Tunne Kelam received 30. The 42-year-old Junti was a deputy in Estonia's last Soviet-era parliament. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

OFFICIAL SAYS RUSSIAN MILITARY FLIGHTS OVER LITHUANIA TO BE BANNED. An unnamed high-ranking official at the Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Ministry told BNS on 20 April that the recent Seimas resolution stating that Russian military flights in Lithuanian airspace "pose a threat to Lithuania's security and [are] intolerable" can only be interpreted to mean that such flights are "impermissible." The Foreign Ministry, he said, must respect the Seimas's wishes by refusing to issue any more permits for Russian military flights. The Seimas resolution was prompted by the low-altitude flight over Vilnius of three armed Russian helicopters on 25 March. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

Bal. 20d. Andrei Kozyrev vėl pakartojo savo pareiškimą, kad Rusija turi teisę naudoti karinę jėgą ginant savo piliečius svetimose valstybėse, nes Amerikos valstybės sekretorius Warren Christopher pasaką, kad Amerika ir naudoty karinę jėgą savo piliečiams gindama...

—o—

Aukštas Lietuvos užs. reikalų ministerijos pareigūnas bal. 20 dieną BNservice pasakė, kad Seimo rezolucija apie rusų skrydžius per Lietuvą yra paversta Lietuvos saugumui ir netoliarnojama. Užsienio reikalų ministerija atsižvelgdama į Seimo nutarimą neturėtų duoti jokių leidimų rusų aviacijos skrydžiams.